

NEW YEAR'S MESSAGE

1997

Hello to all.

1. 1996 has shown that South Africa has continued to go through an adjustment period, particularly in the Socio Economic and Political spheres, which included:

- 1.1 Health Services, Education, the adoption of the new Constitution as well as many other changes.

- 1.2 Greece has had to face continuous onslaught from Turkey and has seen another year go by with the Cyprus question not settled. Our Greek Cypriot Hellenes however, being once again subjected to ruthless killings by the Turks, whilst the world is purportedly pressurising them to settle the Cyprus question. Hellenes will not rest till this is settled.

- 1.3 *ΕΛΛΗΝΕΣ ΔΕΛΤΑ ΠΡΟΦΗΤΕΙΑ*
Hellenes in South Africa, have both adjusted and reacted to these questions. Particularly in South Africa, the Federation with its members - namely the Communities and various Organisations, have adjusted to all the Socio Politico and Socio Economic changes and have firmed themselves, delivering better services in the Ecclesiastic, Scholastic, Cultural and Social fields.

- 1.4 One item remains high on the Agenda, which sends ripples of anxiety and panic amongst the South African Hellenes and for that matter, all law-abiding citizens in South Africa. This is the high rate of crime that is ravaging South Africa and its citizens.

- 1.5 A meeting with the National Commissioner of Police and his deputies, has satisfied the Federation that there is a "hands on" situation and that we should see an abatement in the crime rate in the immediate future. We all pray and give our unequivocal support that this may be accomplished.

2. Our inner personal lives will continue to be subjected to the everyday influences that our Dear Lord chooses and subjects us to.

In this, the road He chooses, I pray that He gives us Strength, Guidance and enlightens:

- 2.1 **Our Church - our Spiritual Fathers**, to be able to continue to enrich all of us Spiritually throughout the year, thus enabling mankind to be Blessed.

- 2.2 Our Embassy, Consulate Generals, Consular Offices, all their officials and staff - we are thankful for what they have done during the past year and may they continue to be given strength to serve their fields to the best of their ability.
- 2.3 Our Communities and Organisations, their leaders, their councils, those providing social services - H.O.L.A, the Old Age Home, the Radio, T.V., Press - may you be blessed and given more strength to continue to provide us with the much needed benefits and services which we enjoy.
- 2.4 Our youth and NAHSOSA - may you continue to blossom to enable the older to reap the enjoyment and contentment of seeing our younger generation carry the flag of Hellenism.
- Those entering University for the first time and those starting a new career - may your path be strewn with success.
- 2.5 Those who have illness, who are confined to bed at home, or are hospitalised - may you all make a speedy recovery.
- 2.6 Our aged in homes and those who are alone - may you feel our warmth and good wishes and be allowed to look back with contentment in what you have achieved. We are thankful for what you have done and may you all be spared for many years to come.
- 2.7 Those who face a sadness and hurt and other difficulties - we all pray that you may overcome and once again face everyday challenges.

Without exception, to each and everyone, on behalf of the Federation, its Executive, my wife and I - may you, all those you love and all those who love you, be Blessed with Health and Happiness for the year 1997. Thank you.

P STATHOULIS
PRESIDENT

30 December 1996
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